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December 2015

# Olive Ross Thompson Correspondence

Olive Ross Thompson 1899-

Maine State Library

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### Recommended Citation

Thompson, Olive Ross 1899- and Maine State Library, "Olive Ross Thompson Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 588.  
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THOMPSON, OLIVE ROSS (Mrs. Cecil F.)

b. Phillips, Maine, August 8, 1899

June 27, 1960

Mrs. Cecil F. Thompson  
Phillips  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Congratulations on your newly published book, THE DEVIL AND I. We shall hope to see it soon, and would appreciate your kindness in telling us the price and the publisher.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? This is a permanent exhibit of books about Maine and books written by Maine people. Most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies, and the inscriptions are varied and original, lending a particular distinction to an already outstanding exhibit. We also gather biographical and critical information on our authors.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of THE DEVIL AND I to the collection. We should be delighted to include it with the books of our other Maine writers.

You have our very good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

( You are welcome to use any of the following information. If I have failed to write things you would like to know, you may advise.)

Olive Blair Ross Thompson was born in Phillips, Maine, August 8, 1899; one of four children of Fred M. and Georgie Thompson Ross. The family lived on a farm where the children had a mile-walk to school. From early childhood Olive was sure she wanted to be a school teacher, playing school and mimicking each successive teacher.

She graduated from high school in 1917 and taught one year in a rural school before entering Farmington State Normal School. In the summer of 1921 she took the "Helping Teachers' Course" given by the State Department of Education at Castine, Maine., and carried on this work with rural teachers while continuing her own teaching.

On June 10, 1922 she was married to Cecil Frank Thompson of Kingfield, Maine, a graduate of Bowdoin College and a student at Tuft's Medical School. Mrs. Thompson continued her teaching in Everett, Mass.

Her husband returned to Phillips for his thirty-two years of practise in medicine, and found an able assistant in his wife until his death in July, 1959.

An active worker in church, school, and civic affairs, Mrs. Thompson always found time to lend a helping hand when needed for a friend and neighbor. Her own three children, and many others, often speak of their gratitude for wise counseling which seemed to come when needed most. As a teen-age Sunday School teacher and a substitute school teacher, she finds much use for the truths learned in the writing of her first book, THE DEVIL AND I.

( Publisher: Philosophical Library 15 East 40th Street, N.Y.C. N.Y.)  
70 pages \$3.75

June 30, 1960

Mrs. Cecil F. Thompson  
Phillips  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Thank you very much for your prompt and generous response to our letter. We are delighted to welcome THE DEVIL AND I to the Maine Author Collection, and we appreciate the inscription you so kindly added to the book, and also the biographical sketch which you sent.

The appeal of your book lies in its quiet, thoughtful, friendly atmosphere, and we hope that many people will have the rewarding opportunity of reading it, and finding its pages an invitation toward serious individual thinking.

THE DEVIL AND I will be noted in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, so that the librarians of the state may know of its availability.

Again thank you for the Maine Author Collection copy.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

# Olive R. Thompson Of Phillips Is Author Of New Book

**BY LUCILLE TOOTHAKER**

It is with pleasure that we announce a new Maine writer, Olive Ross Thompson, and her first book, *The Devil and I*.

The book is not a novel nor does it have the easy reading of a novel; but rather, it is food for thought. It is a simple and true story of unusual scope; a book of lasting value. It might well be called a monograph, a study, not in research, but the inner search for truth which is open to all of us. In the words of the author: "It relates the privilege we have in being able to receive instruction from such a powerful source, and the responsibility we have that we had better want to do so. Many beautiful things are written about the privilege and its rewards; perhaps not enough is written about the responsibility." The frank and sincere style of writing presents a fascinating and helpful story for all ages.

Mrs. Thompson was born and

has lived much of her life in the small town of Phillips, Maine.  
(Continued On Page 5)



MRS. OLIVE R. THOMPSON

## OLIVE THOMPSON—

(Continued From Page 1)

She was graduated from the Farmington State Normal School in 1920. After five years of teaching, she served a useful place in the home and community with her husband, the late Dr. Cecil Thompson, a much loved physician and surgeon. She has been and is an active worker in church and civic affairs. She is also a substitute teacher in the public schools.

Many teen-ager and adults are grateful to her for wise counsel. Her own three children are proud of her willingness to help in any capacity as long as it is in honest and worthwhile endeavor.

Mrs. Thompson's book has been published by Philosophical Library, 15 East 40th Street, New York City.

# Maine Woman's Book Is Inspiration To Soldier

By JANICE DURRELL  
(Area Correspondent)

**PHILLIPS** — Mrs. Olive Ross Thompson, author and community worker, has received word from the Philosophical Library of New York, of the release of her second book, "That His Word Will Live." This is a sequel to her first publication, "The Devil and I" which appeared in 1960.

The books were written, according to Mrs. Thompson, in answer to a direct appeal from clergymen for help in today's universal searching and questioning, especially among teens and troubled adults.

Mrs. Thompson counts, as rewards for her work, many letters from friends, teachers, and men in the services, who have been helped by her writings. One soldier wrote her recently that every youth at his base who could read at all had read her book and wanted more of the same.

Publishers, in accepting the book, wrote the author that they consider it a "work of unusual scope, a fresh and penetrating study of the universal substance of the teachings of Jesus Christ showing the ways in which He is a man for all time."

**MRS. THOMPSON**, a native of Phillips, has always been concerned with helping others. Her home is the scene of many meetings of church and civic groups and she is very active in worthwhile activities in the area.

A former school teacher, she substitutes in several area schools and says she especially likes the teens because they present a great challenge to her.

Mrs. Thompson says that she "knew she could write a book." She found her mind "flooded



Mrs. Olive R. Thompson

with ideas," and felt the urge to "grab a pencil and write," before the thoughts left her.

Deciding that a book should not be written with thoughts so fleeting, Mrs. Thompson thought for a year and spent six months writing the first line of the book. Then the pages "came at a fast pace, but I found I could not even read them."

"Luckily, we had a wood-burning stove," Mrs. Thompson says, "and I burned the unreadable pages."

After another period in which she did not write, feeling that she could not do a book, Mrs. Thompson says "the answers came to me and I wrote the first book."

As a new author, Mrs. Thompson got her first look at galley proofs, in which only grammatical errors were corrected, and she became initiated into the world of the author.

Finding a publisher was made easy by a friend who contacted a friend for Mrs. Thompson. Her second book, she says, came much easier and her galley proofs were "not touched."

**THE THIRD** OF four children of Fred M. and Georgia Thompson Ross of Phillips, Mrs. Thompson graduated from Phillips High School and from Farmington State Normal School, now Farmington State College. She did further studying at Castine and taught schools in Phillips and Kingfield where she served two years as a music supervisor.

In 1922 she married Cecil F. Thompson of Kingfield, a pre-medical student at Bowdoin College. During his medical school years at Tufts College, she taught in Everett, Mass.

Mrs. Thompson and her husband returned to Phillips where he practiced medicine until his death in 1959. They had three children, Mrs. James (Nelda) Worthley, Mechanic Falls; Mrs. Arthur (Jean) Dibden, Carbondale, Ill., and Gordon, Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Mrs. Thompson's love of travel has taken her to all but five of the 50 states. She has also taken trips to Great Britain and Canada and has been to Hawaii twice to visit her son.

Her illustrated talks on her travels have made her a busy speaker throughout Maine. She has now begun to speak about her books to numerous groups and says she gained experience in talking to groups from her many "travelogues."

A busy woman, in many phases of life, Mrs. Thompson was recently introduced as "a woman who is a true humanitarian who lives for her church, hospital, school and for her friends."

3/6/66



## Mrs. Thompson, Phillips Author, Has Second Book Published

Mrs. Olive Ross Thompson, Phillips author, has received word from the Philosophical Library of New York, announcing the release of her second book, entitled, "That His Word Will Live." This is a sequel to Mrs. Thompson's first book, "The Devil and I," published in 1960.

As the publishers accepted the volume, they wrote to the author that they considered it a "work of unusual scope, a fresh and penetrating study of the universal substance of the teachings of Jesus Christ, showing the ways in which He is a Man for all time."

The books were written by Mrs. Thompson in answer to a direct appeal from clergymen for assistance in today's universal seeking and questioning especially among teenagers and troubled adults. Deeply concerned in this field, her

reward has been the many letters from friends, teachers, men in the service, and folk, young and old, who have been helped by her writing. One young soldier told her recently that every boy on his base, who read at all, had read her book and wanted more of the same.

Mrs. Thompson, a Phillips native, was the third of four children of the late Fred M. and Georgia Thompson Ross. She was graduated from Phillips High School in 1917, and from Farmington State Normal School, now Farmington State College, in 1920. After further training at Castine State Normal School, she taught in the schools of Phillips and Kingfield where she served as music supervisor for two years.

On June 10, 1922, she married  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Mrs. Thompson

(Continued from Page 1)

Cecil F. Thomson of Kingfield, a Bowdoin College pre-medical student. During his medical school years at Tufts College, Boston, Mass., Mrs. Thompson taught in Everett, Mass.

Dr. Thompson established his practice in Phillips in 1927, and, with the efficient help of his wife, served the community and area, in a dedicated way, until his death in 1959.

Their three children are: Nelda (Mrs. James Worthley) of Mechanic Falls; Jean (Mrs. Arthur Diben), Carbondale, Ill.; and Gordon, Wahiawa, Hawaii. There are several grandchildren.

Mrs. Thompson is always ready to help any worthwhile cause, and her home is open to civic and church groups for their meetings.

A member of Phillips Methodist Church, and Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. Thompson is choir director, pianist, church treasurer, teacher of a teen-age Sunday School class; is a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee; the Official Board; the Finance Committee; is a delegate to the Maine Methodist Conference; and chairman of the Worship Committee. She is a trustee of Phillips Public Library; treasurer of the Phillips Historical Society; president of Phillips High School Alumni Association; and chairman of the Girl Scout Town organization. She is a member of Phillips Garden Club and Phillips Circle of King's Daughters.

Continuing her interest in the Franklin County Memorial Hospital in Farmington, she is a member of its Auxiliary and a Trustee of the hospital. She is a member of the Family Life Education Program Committee and arranged the panel participation for the recent series of conferences.

An eager traveler, Mrs. Thompson has visited all but five of the 50 states, and has taken trips to Great Britain and Canada. As a result of her two trips to visit her son in Hawaii, Mrs. Thompson has very informative colorful slides and lectures which have been given to more than 100 organizations in Maine and beyond.



August 11, 1966

Mrs. Olive Ross Thompson  
Phillips  
Maine 04966

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

You very kindly sent us a complimentary  
copy of your book THAT HIS WORD WILL LIVE.

Please accept our thanks for your  
thoughtful gift. We shall place it in the  
Maine Author Collection beside THE DEVIL AND I,  
which you may remember you presented to us  
some time ago.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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Maine Author Collection